



COUNTY OF KENOSHA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Mark F. Wisniewski, County Executive

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 10, 2008
SUBJECT: Fox River Flooding

KENOSHA, WI – Kenosha County Executive Mark F. Wisniewski issued a Temporary Executive Order today in response to the predicted flooding of the Fox River.

According to National Weather Service and other sources, the Fox River is expected to rise to a flood stage above 12 feet. This could result in a significant area of flooding in the Village of Silver Lake, and the Towns of Salem and Wheatland.

"I am not going to wait until it starts raining to take action," stated Wisniewski. "This is a proactive response to the rising Fox River. There are measures we can authorize now to assist our residents and businesses later today, tomorrow, and over the weekend."

Roads that are prone to flooding include: local streets in the Town of Wheatland commonly referred to as Shorewood Terrace and Oakwood Shores; County Trunk Highways (CTH) KR and H in the Town of Somers; and CTH JB near the Village of Silver Lake. State Trunk Highway (STH) 32 from CTH KR to 11th Street in the Town of Somers is also under

construction and may experience additional flooding. Currently, Kenosha County Highway Division of Public Works is pumping water from the intersection of STH 32 and 91st Street in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. Motorists are asked to drive cautiously and are reminded that road conditions can change quickly.

The County Executive has also authorized the Director of Public Works to dispatch the Community Work Crew to the County-owned Wilmot Pit located on CTH C. The Work Crew will work to increase the number of filled sand bags that are offered to municipalities impacted by the flood event. There is currently an inventory of approximately 1,000 filled bags and approximately 20,000 unfilled bags. The filled bags are available to impacted communities at no cost.

Some voluntary evacuations have already occurred. With the level of ground saturation and current river and stream elevations, any additional precipitation will likely result in rapidly increasing levels of flooding. Flash flood warnings have also been issued in our area.

Executive Wisniewski met early this morning with Ben Schliesman, Kenosha County Emergency Director and Fred Patrie, Kenosha County Director of Public Works to review the field conditions prior to issuing the Executive Order, which goes into effect immediately. Wisniewski will rescind the order when conditions dictate.

Such a declaration is important for a number of reasons. First, it encourages citizens in the impacted areas to evacuate properties that are prone to flooding. Second, it encourages the motoring public to exercise caution when approaching local roads that are under water. The depth of water is difficult to gauge creating potential hazards. Drivers are strongly discouraged from driving on roads that are under water. Third, by declaring an emergency, units of government and private citizens MAY qualify for financial support in the event of the flood damage.

Questions should be directed through the Kenosha County Department of Emergency Government at 262-605-7900. Residents in need of emergency shelter should contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-236-8680.